GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2263
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2016
Broadcasting Content and Spectrum
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce new broadcasting policy if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce new mechanism regarding broadcasting content, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to provide more spectrum to private broadcasters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a): The broadcasting sector is regulated by separate set of Guidelines/Act/Rules for the different segments operating under it. The same are considered adequate.

(b): As per existing regulatory framework, the telecast of content on private satellite TV channels is regulated through Programme Code and Advertising Code enshrined in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. So far as FM Radio broadcasting is concerned, the permission holder for FM Radio is required to follow the programme and advertisement code as followed by All India Radio as amended from time to time or any applicable code, which the Central Government may prescribe from time to time. These regulations have been found to be adequate.

(c) and (d): The Ministry has accorded permission for FM radio channels to be awarded through ascending e-auction, as followed by Department of Telecommunication for the auction of 3G and BWA spectrum, mutatis-mutandis, as recommended by GoM on Licensing Methodology for FM Phase-III. The FM Phase-III Policy extends FM radio services to about 227 new cities, in addition to the present 86 cities, with a total of 839 new FM radio Channels in 294 cities. Phase-III policy will result in coverage of cities with a population of one lakh and above with private FM radio channels. Government successfully conducted e-Auction of 1st batch of FM Phase-III comprising 135 vacant channels in 69 existing cities of FM Phase-II.
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